

PATENT
10/001,267
Docket 093/004pREMARKS

The Response filed in this application on May 10, 2005, was fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004.

Certain claims have now been amended as indicated above, but no claim has been cancelled or added. The amendment to claim 13, referring to the use of histone deacetylase inhibitors for causing pPS cells to differentiate into 40% hepatocyte lineage cells, is supported in the specification as filed *inter alia* on page 18, line 39. The skilled reader will understand that the other 60% of the population is unspecified, and may or may not also have characteristics of hepatocyte lineage cells.

Table 7 in the working examples shows that propionic acid, isovaleric acid, isobutyric acid, and Trichlostatin A are all suitable for driving hepatocyte differentiation of pPS cells. Table 8 shows the results of an experiment in which Trichlostatin A was used to generate cells with hepatocyte characteristics to the level of 41%, based on albumin expression; and >70% to >90% based on other markers.

The amended claims are believed to meet all the patentability requirements of 35 USC §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112, for reasons given previously. Applicant requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

No fee is believed due for entry or consideration of this Amendment. Nevertheless, should the Patent Office determine that an extension of time or any other relief is required for further consideration of this application, applicant hereby petitions for such relief, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and other fees due in connection with the filing of these papers to Deposit Account No. 07-1139, referencing the docket number indicated above.

Respectfully submitted,



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